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News Release Communiqué

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FEDERAL GOVERNMENT APPOINTS NEGOTIATOR FOR CAMP IPPERWASH

OTTAWA (January 16, 1996) — Ronald A. Irwin, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, and David Collenette, Minister of National Defence, today announced the appointment of Ralph C. Brant as the federal negotiator for Camp Ipperwash.

"Mr. Brant brings with him to the negotiating table a sensitivity to the issue, a knowledge of the law and considerable experience," said Minister Irwin. Negotiations with the Kettle and Stony Point First Nation are due to begin shortly.

"The appointment of Mr. Brant is an important step forward in bringing about a lasting settlement at Camp Ipperwash," added Minister Collenette.

Mr. Brant, a Mohawk from the Bay of Quinte, obtained a law degree from Queen's University in 1994. He has 13 years' experience with the federal government, most recently as the Regional Director General in the Atlantic Region of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. He held this position from 1982-1991. Between 1982 and 1988, Mr. Brant was the Director of Accounting Operations, Departmental Audit Branch and Alternative Funding Arrangements. He also worked as the Manager of the Petroleum Incentive Program at the former Department of Energy, Mines and Resources in 1982.

Significant progress in laying the groundwork for a resolution at Camp Ipperwash has been made in the last few months. The Kettle and Stony Point First Nation has established two committees to support the forthcoming negotiations. One committee will participate in actual negotiations at the table, while the other will seek input from all of its community members.

Ministers Irwin and Collenette are pleased that the community is putting in place a negotiating team that provides the opportunity for the participation of all interests of the Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point. They expect that the negotiating team will include individuals directly associated with and representing the interests of the Stony Point group. The Ministers are hopeful that this initiative by the First Nation will encourage all members of the community to contribute their views which will lead to a lasting settlement.

As well, the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development has met with members of the Kettle and Stony Point First Nation to discuss the implementation of a joint historical research project. The aim of the project is to clarify the historical use and occupation of the Kettle and Stony Point reserve lands.



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Mr. Robert Reid was named jointly by the Ministers as the special federal representative for Camp Ipperwash in September 1995. As part of his function Mr. Reid provided advice to the Ministers regarding an approach to negotiations, which has resulted in the appointment of the negotiator and an outline of the process for the negotiations. Both Ministers have requested Mr. Reid maintain his involvement in the process as a special advisor on the issues and concerns of third parties, acting as a liaison between the third parties and the negotiator.

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For information:

Gordon Shanks
Assistant Deputy Minister
Lands and Trusts Services
DIAND
(819) 953-5577

John Adams
Assistant Deputy Minister
Infrastructure and Environment
DND
(613) 996-3100